
PULSE OXIMETRY

AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2 Section 100063

PURPOSE

To identify guidelines for the use of Pulse Oximetry for those agencies approved to utilize this device

FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

All patients with neurological, respiratory or cardiovascular complaints

All patients with abnormal vital signs

All patients who may have taken respiratory depressants

Trauma patients

Pulse Oximetry may be utilized on any patient

PROCEDURE

1. Remove nail polish, if necessary; utilize adhesive sensor or apply sensor to the side of the finger
2. Attach pulse ox, note that motion at the sensor site may mimic pulsatile activity
3. Allow equilibration time, note that low perfusion (shock), edema, anemia and carbon monoxide poisoning may result in an inaccurate pulse ox reading
4. Document pulse rate and pulse ox reading
5. Monitor constantly and document pulse ox at appropriate intervals

NOTE: The administration of oxygen is not determined by the Pulse Oximetry reading. High flow oxygen will be utilized as indicated by current protocols. Pulse Oximetry is used only as a guide in providing overall care to the patient. Emergency care will not be delayed while waiting for a Pulse Oximetry reading.